

want us in Washington to implement change. Democrats are going to heed their call, Madam Speaker.

We have said from the beginning of our campaign for a new direction that one of the first things we will do when we take back the House is to pass a law that will authorize the government to negotiate lower drug prices. We intend to live up to that promise. The savings from that program can be used to help eliminate the infamous "doughnut hole" that millions of seniors have fallen into over the past few months.

While the President and his cronies are threatening to oppose such legislation, I think they would be better served to reconsider. It is time for us to take a long and hard look at the Medicare part D program and see where we can make some improvements. Democrats are not calling for repeal of this law, but we are calling for some changes, changes that the American voters clearly support. I hope that my Republican friends will join us as we work together to improve the Medicare program on behalf of America's seniors.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 11 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God of power and mercy, You are Lord of all creation, yet You bend to every human need, and are always attentive to our prayer. Bless this Nation and the endeavors of Congress today. Give us freedom of spirit and health of mind and body that we may serve the people we represent and work to establish the values of Your kingdom here on Earth.

May your revealed presence in our midst carry over to the way we deal with one another in mutual respect, and confront the problems we face together. We pray, calling upon Your holy name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUPAK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to work together to provide effective immigration reform. I am pleased the Secure Fence Act of 2006 was signed into law. Securing our borders must be our first step to stop the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

One thing is clear, we must work to uphold the law. Congress must not provide a path to citizenship or any type of amnesty for those who have crossed our borders illegally. In 1986, Congress passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill that included amnesty.

This was a failure. It did not reduce illegal immigration or permanently solve any of the immigration problems we face today. Rather, it provided the incentive to come here legally by rewarding illegal aliens with amnesty.

As Members of Congress, we took an oath to uphold and defend our laws in the Constitution. There is a solution to the problem of illegal immigration, but the answer is not to reward those who violated the laws of the United States.

#### 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on November 7, the American people voted resoundingly in favor of a Congress that would make implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission a top priority. They voted for a Democratic Congress.

For months, the Republican leadership in this body has sat on the 41 recommendations the 9/11 Commission gave for improving the security of our Nation. The Republican Congress did nothing when the expert bipartisan group released a scathing report card on the lack of progress that has been made and gave our government Ds and Fs for failing to take steps necessary to ensure we would never face another tragedy like 9/11.

Democrats believe it is unacceptable that 5 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks our Nation's first responders are still without interoperable radios and have planes flying across our country that are loaded with cargo that is rarely ever inspected.

Madam Speaker, Democrats know how important it is for us to make our Nation as safe as possible. That is why we will implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission next year so that we can be better prepared to protect our Nation against potential terrorist attack. I know, as I was a first responder for 11 years.

#### VETERANS ESTABLISH FREEDOM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past weekend we celebrated Veterans Day, and it is appropriate to acknowledge today that because of our veterans, freedom and democracy are more widely spread than ever before.

Fifty million people have been liberated by our courageous troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last week was the 17th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, confirming the success of President Ronald Reagan. From Estonia to Bulgaria, from Mongolia to Hungary, hundreds of millions of people have emerged from communism and are now free.

Earlier this year I visited Liberia, which is still celebrating the election of the first female African leader. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected after the dictator Charles Taylor fled at the urging of President Bush.

Today, America's veterans can be prouder than ever of their success as they are freeing oppressed people around the world.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM DESERVE OUR HELP

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, permanent trade relations for Vietnam was brought before the House with no committee hearings and under suspension of the rules. I spoke against the bill and demanded a rollcall vote, and last night the bill failed to get the necessary two-thirds, so it was defeated.

Now, the people of Vietnam deserve our help. The United States actually has a moral obligation of a long-standing nature with respect to Vietnam that we don't really need to elaborate on, because we understand what this Nation did to Vietnam. If you care about Vietnam, you should care to know that the permanent trade relations would have this effect, this bill. It would cause millions of peasants to be thrown off the land as agricultural supports are withdrawn.

Millions of workers losing their jobs at State enterprises wither in the face of foreign competition or downsize and

speed up operations in an effort to stay competitive. As a result of these and other factors, there would be a surge in income and wealth inequality, exacerbating dangerous trends already under way.

Until we have a trade policy that has workers rights, human rights and environmental quality principles, all that free trade means for nations like Vietnam is more exploitation of the country and of the workers. That is why we need to vote down this bill when it comes back this week.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF JOHNS CREEK, GEORGIA

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor and city council and citizens of the newly created City of Johns Creek in Georgia. In accordance with the bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Johns Creek will be officially incorporated as a city on December 1, 2006.

This is a wonderful and gratifying time for the people of Johns Creek. Those residents fought diligently to make this day a reality. They have chosen to honor Mr. Mike Bodker as the first mayor of their new city.

Johns Creek is a vibrant, engaged and dynamic community. They have seized the opportunity to have a more direct impact on their future, and this achievement also comes with many new responsibilities.

I am confident that the citizens will successfully embrace these new challenges, as our 10th largest city, Johns Creek, will also be a leader in our larger Georgia community.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the privilege of bringing the recognition of this House of Representatives as we congratulate the people of Johns Creek, Georgia and wish them the very best during this exciting transition.

#### AMERICANS DEMANDING CHANGE IN WASHINGTON AND DEMOCRATS BRINGING CIVILITY TO D.C.

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, last week, the American people spoke loudly and clearly. They want a change here in Washington, and they want Democrats and Republicans to work together to solve the problems they confront on a daily basis. During the campaign this year, Democrats promised to change the tone of the debate here in Washington, and work cooperatively on behalf of all Americans.

Because we will not be the party of anger politics, Democrats will honor our pledge. We will treat the Repub-

licans in the minority in a manner compatible with the interests of the voting public. In the past, Democrats have been shut out of the debate. This is not how a Democratic form of government is supposed to work.

But the campaign is over, and we are not going to focus on the past. Democrats pledge, therefore, to preside over the most open and honest Congress in history. We want to pass solid ethics legislation that the public is actually demanding. We are here to represent only our constituents, and we need to make that clear.

Madam Speaker, change is coming to Washington.

#### ED DAVIS TRIBUTE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Admiral Chester Nimitz, in describing the bravery of Americans battling for Iwo Jima, said, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Captain Ed Davis, who died last week at age 67, was a man of most uncommon valor. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Davis was shot down over Vietnam in 1965, and he would spend the next 7½ years as a prisoner in Hanoi.

When finally released from captivity, he said, "When I first saw that flag"—meaning the U.S. flag—"I knew it was all worth it."

To those of us who knew him, his death is a great loss. But his passing is also a great loss to the country he loved.

Captain Davis won three silver stars, the Legion of Merit with Combat Citation, five air medals, two purple hearts, as well as numerous other honors both military and civilian.

Our thoughts and our prayers and those of a grateful Nation go out to his family. May he rest in peace.

#### IRAQ

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, last week the American people voted for new ideas and a new direction in Iraq. Changing the Secretary of Defense was a good first step, but we have a long way to go, and the situation is getting worse.

Last week, I went to Amman, Jordan, to listen to a cross-section of moderate secular leaders from the region. They gave me their ideas for stabilizing Iraq. It is a way forward and it comes from the people in the region closest to the chaos.

These leaders believe the U.S. should redeploy our soldiers to the borders between Iraq and Syria and Iraq and Iran. These leaders believe strategic redeployment can stop the infiltration of

violence and get U.S. soldiers out of harm's way in Baghdad.

The leaders gave me a four-point plan they believe will save American and Iraqi lives and their country. Strategic redeployment is a key element. We should do it.

In medicine, doctors are taught to listen to the patient. The saying is, "Listen to the patient. He's telling you what's the matter." Too often we have gone in like a doctor who had an idea that they knew what was wrong and how to fix it.

We, the Congress, must listen to those moderate secular leaders in Iraq.

#### ISSUES FACING TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22

(Ms. SEKULA GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. My name is SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS. I am the new Congressmember from Texas Congressional District 22.

As the winner of the special election, I promise to roll up my sleeves and work hard over the next 2 months to move our country forward and to support the hardworking people in my district who have put their faith in me.

Some of the key issues for my district are:

Reducing the size of government and lowering taxes; to help seniors in their search for more choice and security in health care and have a stable source of funding for Medicare; to enhance Ellington Field as the linchpin of homeland security for the Houston region; to also help fund NASA/Johnson Space Center, the return to the Moon and onward to our voyage to Mars. Space is at the epicenter of our Nation's future.

As a physician, wife and mother who respects life from conception to natural death, I look for ways to support the sanctity of life.

Texas shares a long border with our neighboring country Mexico. I will work to honor my commitment to the people of my district by seeking ways to stop illegal immigration while streamlining the process of legal immigration.

I look forward to serving the district and the opportunity to serve my Nation.

□ 1115

#### DEMOCRATS TO REINSTATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO REQUIREMENTS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, for too long in this country Republicans have governed without a strong dedication to fiscal responsibility and without using the pay-as-you-go method. The President and his friends here in Congress